

# A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

206 Agency Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Phone 25965

VOL. IV.

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NUMBER 1.

1944

## A CHILD'S QUESTION

Mummy!

'Will you tell me why, when the Earth is kind,  
Full of treasures for men to find,  
Giving freely of fruits and corn,  
Sufficient for all the children born;

Mummy!

Will you tell me why men starve and fall  
When God has given enough — for ALL?

From "Christian Economics."



## PARITY NOT CHARITY

Sir. — May I impose on your kind generosity for space in your paper. I don't intend to take up same by criticizing or praising any political party, not even my own.

However, I do think that farmers especially should not be wasting time knocking other political parties or praising their own, but co-operating to persuade all the farmers of all political bodies that we need the mobilization of the brains of all the farmers to attack and solve our own problems, by forming one large non-political farm union.

At present any political body has to rely on city and country support. As a rule the city supporters of any political party naturally try to benefit the city people in preference to the farmers, so why should we not do likewise.

That's why the farmers of all political bodies regardless of religion or creed should co-operate by joining one big non-political farmers' union. When we are strong enough — mind you should all be main spokes in that big wheel — it won't matter what provincial or dominion governments are in power they'll all be ready to offer to assist us in many ways.

Who are going to continue this organizing? We haven't funds for high class speakers to go around, furthermore we don't need them. Each of you farmers should be an organizer. Start right now. Contact the trustees of two school districts. Send to the United Farmers, secretary, Frank Eliason, Saskatoon, for literature. Alberta farmers, for Alberta Farmers' Union literature and books to form your local send to H. E. Nichols, 206 Agency Building, Edmonton. Combine your two school districts for one big meeting. Form your local; get all the farmers in your district to sign. If each farmer does his duty as he should he should not only make a special effort to sign up as a union member but see that his neighbor does likewise.

While we are organizing and having meetings we should discuss our problems, parity price, etc., in the most reasonable way.

The Searle grain index, which is a fairly reliable source, gives such valuable information as that farmers are paying around 54 per cent more today for 147 average farm items than in 1913 and 1914. So we are a long way behind regarding parity prices. If farmers were strong enough there is no reason why we could not manufacture co-operatively not only these 147 items but all our farm necessities.

The government, under pressure of agricultural bodies, etc., has finally arranged to have

the price of grain boosted. They might as well raised it to at least the same level as United States grain prices while they were at it.

I plead with each farmer to assist in his own small way to get organized strongly enough so that we can persuade the powers that be not only to boost the grain prices at least to the same levels as United States, but also livestock and other produce as well, and also to remove the duty between Canada and the C. S. so that machinery, cars, washing machines, etc., are the same price in Canada as in the U. S. A.

Many have written on parity prices but I have not seen any figures suggested, so am suggesting that parity prices in Canada be similar to those in U. S. A. We should be assured that necessities, machinery, etc., won't cost us any more than they do in the United States, otherwise we should receive still higher prices.

Parity prices at all shipping points should be at least; wheat good enough for flour \$1.50 a bushel, other wheat \$1.00; barley No. 1 \$1.00, balance feed 75 cents; rye No. 1 \$1.00, balance feed 75 cents; flax No. 1, \$2.50 a bushel, balance flax \$2.00; oats No. 1, 75 cents, feed 50 cents. Potatoes No. 1 \$1.50 a bushel, No. 2 75 cents. Turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, No. 1 25 cents a lb., No. 2. 15c. Hides, No. 1 10c a lb., No. 2 7c. Wool No. 1 50 cents-a lb., No. 2 30 cents. Cattle hogs and sheep equal value, liveweight No. 1 16 cents, No. 2 10 cents. Since machine companies seem to value their tractors, around \$150 horse power, I think a good horse should be worth \$150.

I appeal to all farmers, especially in Alberta, to obtain the necessary papers from the above-mentioned address to form your own non-political farmers' union as soon as possible. Help make the day soon that the U. F. A., the U. F. C. and the A. F. U. amalgamate in one solid non-political farm body so we will be prepared for some of this postwar reconstruction. — Henry Kelley, president, Alberta Farmers' Union, Division 9, Wetaskiwin Constituency, Millet, Alberta.

We have received a report from the new Secretary of the Toporoutz Local No. 350, Steve W. Starchuk, that they held a successful Annual Meeting and elected their officers for the coming year as follows:

President: Tom G. Makarinko.

Vice-President: Geo. Polomarch.

Secretary: Steve W. Starchuk.

Directors: Geo. Buychuk, John Chahley and Steve W. Starchuk.



# Broadcast Delivered December 15th

Good Evening Fellow Farmers:-

The response to our radio programs has been most encouraging and several of our locals have sponsored a complete broadcast. The broadcast this evening is sponsored by the Myrtle Creek local No. 252 which is situated near Radway which is about 50 miles north-east from Edmonton.

This is not a very large local having at present some 25 members but this is the second broadcast they have sponsored and they are sending out a friendly challenge to other locals to beat them, if they can. They have a small complaint to make with regard to our membership contest because they know they have no chance to win as they have nearly all the farmers in the immediate district already organized, and it is therefore hard to increase their membership much more. Well, the only consolation I can offer them, is that if all other locals do as well as they have done it will not be long before the Farmers Union obtains its objective and has the majority of farmers organized in the Province of Alberta. The active secretary of this local is Mr. Kunelius and when he was in the office recently he told me that his local holds social gatherings at which they raise enough money to meet their community expenses. They will be sending a delegate to the Annual Convention and they are very interested in the terms of the new bacon contract as they feel that the Dominion government is not encouraging production in the way it should.

## ORGANIZATION WORK

I should just like to remark in passing that our locals should take advantage of the fine weather now prevailing and try to hold their annual meetings to elect their delegates to the Annual Convention and send in their resolutions before the end of December. I know how the labour shortage make it almost impossible for some of you to find time to get out for even one meeting during the winter, but it is to rectify such conditions as this, that our Union was formed, therefore for just one night in the year try and give it your personal support. Remember that your secretary is also a farmer and has no more spare time, gas or tires, than you have and therefore should not be expected to go around in order to gather up memberships as well as performing secretarial duties.

The best way you can support the work of your Union is by sending or taking your dues to

your secretary promptly; attend what meetings you can and never lose an opportunity of pointing out to your non-union neighbour how much more easily the work can be accomplished if each one does his or her part. If you hitched only one horse to a gang plow you could not do much work; but if you put four on they could go along with comparative ease. At the present time only about one farmer in every four is organized and we must give some thoughts to this matter.

## HONEST THINKING

I heard a man say the other day that he thought that people nowadays were more honest in their thinking than they used to be and after carefully considering the remark, I think he is right. This opens up a ray of hope because at the present time it seems as if this civilization of ours is confronted with many problems which should not be problems at all. For instance, the problem that is coming more to the front every day is, what are we going to do with our returned men when they come back? I want to quote you a short article entitled "Madhouse Economics," taken from the Vancouver Daily Province. It says, and I quote "What is the world fighting for? The Atlantic Charter, which is taken as the guiding star, says it is for Peace, for a better world, for the four freedoms."

If this is so, why are we afraid of accomplishing that for which we are pouring out billions of treasure and the blood of millions of men? For there is no doubt, we are afraid. On Wall Street there was a slump when rumours of a possible early peace sent industrial stocks and railroad stocks down. In Winnipeg, grain prices fell. It is not difficult to guess the reason. Business has a feeling that peace would hurt business. Business is geared to war and peace would be destructive to it. The next day, following Mr. Churchill's grave warning that the war's climax and the heaviest losses are still to come, confidence in the continuance of the war was restored and prices recovered. We want peace more than anything else in the world, but **our faces grow pale** when there seems an early prospect of getting it. We detest war and wish to banish it from the earth; but we feel better when we are assured by the highest authority that the war will be with us for many months yet. If this is not the economics of a Madhouse, what is it?" Unquote. Of course, the explanation is that during the war government borrows a lot of money and spends it on armaments. Armament is something the people cannot buy but they get wages for

producing them. So all the other industries have this additional buying power to add to what they pay out themselves. And it keeps them going by giving them a market. So a war is one of the illogical and tragic ways the present economic system can be made to add up. It is merely another phase of the peacetime question of why do we have so much unemployment? Is it necessary and what can we do about it? Well it seems to be only a simple problem; but it is very seldom even yet that we are prepared to solve even a simple problem in a simple way.

### WAR IN PEACETIME!

For instance in those so-called times of Peace, before this war I mean, and after the war of 1914-1918, there was an economic war on so that men assembled in hundreds and even fought against one another in order to get the privilege of a job; that is the time I am speaking of. In those days when a man said he was hungry and wanted something to eat, we would say, You need a job, Eh! Well, I'm sorry but there's none around here. And so our muddled thinking led us to the immediate conclusion that when a man asked for a meal, he wanted work.

Now let us look at the condition of things on the farm about that time. I never heard of a farmer asking for work; but I have heard of many trying to get relief from so much of it. All farmers of my acquaintance had plenty of work and they also had enough to spare for about two other men if they could afford to hire them. Most farmers also have sufficient of certain kinds of food to eat; but they were often strictly limited from the point of variety to the kind of food which they raised themselves and it was plentiful. Obviously the difficulty was that we did not have the facilities for exchanging the things we did not require, for the things we needed. Oh yes, there was lots of transportation facilities in the way of trucks and railroads; but we did not have the means to put these into operation so that they would function on our behalf and quite often they would travel back and forth absolutely empty. There was no available mechanism apparently by which the farmer could trade off his surplus raw materials and receive in exchange, labor, machinery, etc., on an equitable basis.

### BECAUSE INEQUITY SHALL ABOUND

The snag in the whole business of course was contained in those last four words, "on an equitable basis", and I don't think it would be stretching the truth at all if I said that most of the trouble in the world to-day is because of the inequity which abounds. I expect a good many of you will recollect that you have heard those words somewhere before; and I have only to

mention that they were said by the Great Teacher nearly two thousand years ago, for you to place them yourself. The exact quotation is, "because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" and the meaning of the word iniquity includes the word inequity, and all that it implies.

It is because of inequity that we have labour troubles. The workers go on strike because they are not getting an equitable deal. Most of the cases in our law courts have to do with infringements on someone's equity. The farmer is very often in danger of losing the equity in his farm because he does not receive equity when he sells his produce. And it is because of this lack of equity that good feeling and friendliness are disappearing or have disappeared in a lot of our National and also our international relationship. Business to-day has become a matter of driving the hardest kind of bargain and those who cannot compel themselves to be guided by the rule of utter selfishness, are bound to fall behind in the race. While the farmers products are compelled to measure up to the highest mark by the stiff grading system which imposes an unwarranted penalty on every article which is less than top-notch, even though the farmer is not responsible for the imperfections, whatever they may be, yet there is no such grading for real value reflected in the prices of the things the farmer has to buy. There is a big inequity there; and I have only to mention that while a farmer gets only just over one cent for the wheat that is contained in a loaf of bread, he has to pay nine cents for the loaf when he buys it. In our desperate extremity quite often we farmers appeal for a government board to set prices for us in the hope that we will get a better deal. I don't know why we continue to do this because we have had enough bitter disappointment in the past but at least it does bear out the truth of the statement that "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." Of course, as a matter of fact it is unreasonable to expect that our different government boards, set up in the way that they are, ever can judge what constitutes a really equitable arrangement. They are there to serve the government, because you see the government pays them. And no man can serve two masters. If he tries, one of them will fire him.

### FARM MACHINERY

I am just going to tell you the history of a repair part which the office of the Alberta Farmers' Union was instrumental in obtaining for one of our farmers. Of course you know there is considerable difficulty in obtaining repair parts for farm machinery and you have to get them where you can. Well, this particular part which in the ordinary way is sold by the wholesaler for



\$6.20 was sent C.O.D. to a farmer in the Peace River country and it cost him \$12.87. This looked to us like a plain case of inequity and so we appealed to the proper department of the War-time Prices and Trade Board and we were told, much to our surprise, that the Board found nothing inequitable about such a price and the transaction met with their approval. As a matter of fact the prices which have been charged for farm machinery in Western Canada ever since the first world war are an outrage. This machinery is over 100% higher than it was at that time and in comparison with farm prices is more than 300% higher now. Well these illustrations have just been given to show what inequities there are in our trade relationship and when you compare the modest home of the average wheat raiser, even including its out-door plumbing, with the splendid residence of the man who sells his wheat for him, you will understand that there is a reason for mutual regard **not** abounding when such unjustifiable inequities prevail.

All farmers, and especially those who have relatives in the armed forces should belong to an organization that will endeavour to see that any plan of post war reconstruction shall be based on equity and shall treat agriculture as the foundation. Any other plan is doomed to failure from the start. In order to learn more about the Alberta Farmers' Union write the Secretary, 206 Agency Building, Edmonton, and he will be pleased to send you the necessary material. Also subscribe for our Bulletin which will keep you informed of the activities of your Union. We want this to be **YOUR UNION**, built by farmers, for farmers to find the solution for their economic problems and in co-operation with all other similar organizations, to build up a better Canada, a Canada in which **Inequity** shall **NOT** abound.

Good Night and Good Luck.

The radio broadcast will be discontinued until some time after the Convention. We are much too busy during the convention and for some time after to prepare broadcasts; but if sufficient funds come in we hope to resume another series to be completed before the spring work starts.

The prosperity which really should have been already obtained is not available to the people, owing to the overlordship of finance, which simply will not tolerate **PLENTY** in the hands of the people lest they become too independent to be controlled. Freedom of the people; and financial control by overlords, are simply incompatible.

## New Locals Formed

- Chedderville Local No. 555; Secretary Mr. H. B. James, Chedderville.  
 Border Local No. 556; Secretary Mr. G. Santa, Jr., Milk River.  
 Spruce Coulee Local No. 557; Secretary Miss Irene Paulson, Donaldda.  
 Lake Bend Local No. 558; Secretary Mrs. Fred Hanes, Bashaw.  
 Opal Local No. 559; Secretary Mr. H Wacowich, Opal.  
 Eldonera Local No. 560; Secretary Mr. C. Polanski, Eldorena.  
 Beaver Mines Local No. 561; Secretary Mr. W. D. McDowell, Beaver Mines.  
 Lucas Local No. 562; Secretary Mr. Jack Nowells, Wetaskiwin.  
 Amelia Local No. 563; Secretary Mr. M. Sawka, Amelia.  
 Balsam Grove Local No. 563; Secretary Mr. Julius Zilkie, Newbrook.  
 Peace Hill Local No. 565; Secretary Mr. Wilfred R. Provost, Wetaskiwin.  
 Bigstone Local No. 566; Secretary Mr. J. Cummings, Wetaskiwin.  
 Edgehill Local No. 567; Secretary Mr. Harold Restall, Ballater.  
 Coalchester Local No. 568; Secretary Mr. A. Harke, RR2, South Edmonton.  
 Stewartfield Local No. 569; Secretary Mr. Smith.  
 Ballater Local No. 570; Secretary Mr. Chas. De Barre, Ballater.  
 Willow Park Local No. 571; Secretary Mr. W. E. Bentley, Donaldda.  
 Vincent Local No. 572; Secretary Mr. Wm. McNabb, Colinton.  
 Cayne Local No. 573; Secretary Mr. Vaseleff, Pemukan.  
 Hasting Coulee Local No. 574; Secretary Mr. T. E. McNabb, Forestburg.  
 Gamefield Local No. 575; Secretary Mr. A. Waycickowich, Alpen.  
 Galahad Local No. 576; Secretary Mr. R. Lees, Galahad.

## Purebred Registered Yorkshires

Weanlings, bred and open gilts, boars. The kind that will grade "A" and bring you a premium. The best is none too good for a Union member. Come and make your own selection.

**P. H. ASHBY & SON,**  
 Route 3, South Edmonton.

## RADIO FUND DONATIONS

December 8th.—A. E. Doris, Whitemud Creek, Secretary Doris Local No. 419 .....	\$5.00
December 9th.—Dan Triska, Vegreville, Warwick Local No. 13 .....	3.00
December 10th.—A. A. Engels, LeGoff, Secretary, LeGoff Local No. 523 .....	25.00
December 10th.—K. V. Can Riper, Vilna, Secretary Kildonna Local No. 449 .....	1.10
December 10th.—W. Ames, Meeting Creek, Personal Donation .....	.50
December 11th.—N. MacDonald, Brightbank, Secy Hanson Corner Local No. 529 .....	10.00
December 11th.—K. L. Burns .....	.50
December 14th.—J. Ratchuk, Smoky Lake, Secretary Cossack Local No. 430 .....	2.00
December 15th.—H. J. Faryna, Beaverdam, Secretary Beaverdam Local No. 223 .....	3.00
December 15th.—Fill Mischy, Westrose .....	1.00
December 15th.—P. Gabrouski, Westrose .....	1.00
December 15th.—H. J. Johnson, Holden, Secretary Palmer Local No. 140 .....	5.00
December 16th.—M. Fitzowich, Calmar, Secretary Calmar Local No. 203 .....	54.50
December 16th.—Genesee Local No. 519, Warburg Local No. 329, St. Francis Local No. 307 .....	3.71
December 17th.—H. C. Flanders, Elk Point, Secretary Elk Point Local No. 98 .....	5.00
December 17th.—H. Taylor, Rochester, Secretary Caribo Range Local No. 185 .....	5.00
December 17th.—J. Anderson, Rochester .....	.25
December 17th.—H. Taylor, Rochester .....	.25
December 18th.—M. W. Cole, Hondo, Secy Mirror Landing Local No. 523 .....	5.00
December 20th.—E. T. Sanders, Irma, Secretary Irma Local No. 154 .....	5.00
December 21st.—J. Gillese, Rochford Bridge, Secy Rochford Bridge Local No. 279 .....	2.00
December 21st.—H. Wocowich, Opal, Secretary Opal Local No. 559 .....	8.10
December 21st.—W. Bodnar, Sunnybrook, Secy Sunnybrook Local No. 306 .....	8.00
December 21st.—H. Struve, Onoway, Secretary Onoway Local No. 272 .....	5.30
December 22nd.—N. H. Babich, Wostok, Secretary Wostok Local No. 19 .....	5.00
December 22nd.—R. Person, R R 1, Gunn, Secretary Rich Valley Local No. 250 .....	4.50
December 22nd.—H. Twerdy, Northern Valley, Personal Donation .....	1.00
December 22nd.—P. Letersky, Waskatenau, Secretary Clodford Local No. 102 .....	15.00
December 22nd.—K. W. Radomsky, Smoky Lake, Secy Toporoutz Local No. 350 .....	5.00
December 23rd.—J. E. F. McNab, Macleod, Secretary Macleod Local No. 379 .....	5.00
December 23rd.—G. R. Wilson, Grimshaw, Secy Three Lakes Local No. 467 .....	2.10

December 24th.—O. Mallas, Hay Lakes, Secretary Conard Local No. 305 .....	5.00
December 24th.—Mrs. W. Zarowny, Armistice, Secretary Orvilton Local No. 493 .....	1.00
December 27th.—A. Kulachkosky, Baytree, Secretary Baytree Local No. 314 .....	6.15
December 27th.—T. H. Draper, Ashmont, Secretary Ashmont Local No. 486 .....	5.00
December 29th.—N. Schesnuk, Hollow Lake, Secy Garden Park Local No. 359 .....	15.00
December 30th.—J. J. Kawyuk, Whitford, Secretary Whitford Local No. 5 .....	6.00
December 30th.—Julius Oswald, Chipman, Personal Donation .....	2.00
December 30th.—J. F. Low, Prairie Echo, Secretary Prairie Echo Local No. 257 .....	4.00
December 30th.—M. Lorentz, R R 1, Leduc, Personal Donation .....	2.00
December 30th.—T. Rose, Personal Donation .....	.50
January 3r.—C. Palanski, Eldorena, Secretary Eldorena Local No. 560 .....	2.00
January 3rd.—E. L. Heureux, Arvilla, Secretary Arvilla Local No. 97 .....	2.00

## LETTER FROM PRAIRIE ECHO

Dear Secretary:-

Your explanatory letter re fluctuation of hog prices has been discussed. We have to thank you for writing at such length. The subject however is a thorn in the seat or side whichever way we lean or look. It appears that the whole control of this matter should be taken over, noxious as that may seem, we cannot accept the packer view. We want to KNOW how much open market competition there is. Why hogs go to one single plant year after year? Why the shippers are encouraged to deliver direct? Why do I have to pay 40c per lb. for sow-belly, for which I receive but 10c per lb? Who gets all the rest?

These are only a few of the questions I am asked (a voluntary worker) and which I encourage. It's a good sign, do you think? Here we are only two men short of 100% Union and I cannot rest from "mental strife" till I get all those fellows to think and ask questions. I am now getting the ladies and have started with encouragement.

I do not want to bother you by incessant writing; but I will ask you to take this state of ferment as a sign of the stirring of the "think-pot" I am suggesting the names of a few good men to whom you could write and get them organized north of here. Hope I'm not bothering too much; but I can't help it. I'm better.

Happy New Year.

Yours fraternally, J. F. LOW.

(We are glad to receive letters like this. Mr. Low had the misfortune to break his leg a few months ago and we are glad to know he is recovering).



## A WAR RECORD

The Nation at War! Loud Beat the Drum!  
(But where are the soldiers coming from?)  
Where are the men to defeat the scum  
Skimmed off Hell by the Nazi Bum?  
"We'll get 'em off the farms, By Gum!"  
Cried Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

They joined the Infantry, manned the Tanks,  
Flung themselves thru far cloud-banks,  
Learned the Corvettes' whims and pranks,  
Looked surprised at the Nations thanks!  
"Not enough! Come! Swell the Ranks!"  
Roared Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

Where are the Men to make the Guns,  
The bullets, the ships, to whip the Huns?  
Without Manpower no factory runs —  
Who mines the metals tons and tons?  
"We will give you the farmers' sons!"  
Said Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

The farmers' sons were gone away,  
Mom and the girls helped pitch the hay;  
Then the girls were called to join the fray,  
For once in their lives to work for pay.  
"The farmer must put in a longer day!"  
Quoth Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

Bossy bawls by the pasture gate,  
Her udder a heavy, swollen weight,  
The run is down but she still must wait,  
Because the farmer and his mate  
Must toil harder, toil more late,  
Says Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

A gaunt world cried "Give ut to eat!"  
The farmers filled the land with wheat,  
With eggs and butter, milk and meat!  
A mighty task! A glorious feat!  
But, "More, More! or we taste Defeat!"  
Cried Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

Farmers! don your winter togs —  
Away you go to the frozen bogs  
To cut the timber, haul the logs,  
That the mills continue to turn their cogs,  
Leave Mom to feed the cows and hogs,  
Urged Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

Britain is hungry rush more pork!  
Work farmer! Work and Work!  
Guard the sow that hails the Stork!  
Cherish the piglets — Tamworth — York —  
Toil in the dark with straw and fork.  
Pleads Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

Money is needed — support the flag!  
Mom' may dress in a flour bag.  
The mortgage is due; — let it lag  
Let the seat of your trousers drag  
Just don't let your spirits sag  
Cries Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

The farmer's fields are full of weeds,  
Thriving mightily, shedding seeds  
Where's the machine the farmer needs  
Why no help? Tho' he curses and pleads  
For tools to help him to greater deeds  
Ask Jimmy; the Min. of Ag.

That hog is heavy, a pound to fat!  
The British folk just can't eat that,  
Did I not issue a fiat  
About the weight to market at?  
We'll just dock you, three bucks flat,  
Growled Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

You want payment? How can that be?  
How dare you talk of Parity?  
Enough that you have LIBERTY!  
To heck with your debts — You ARE free!  
What do you want with security?  
Snorts Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

The old tin box where the war bonds should be  
Is empty of all security.  
The mortgage holders grin with glee,  
Certain they are of Victory!  
Sure that the farmer will **never** be free,  
Under Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

The price of grain is up I hear,  
The farm from debt will not be clear.  
The farmer has less to sell each year.  
Mortgage companies need not fear —  
The Money Lord is still most dear  
To Jimmy, the Min. of Ag.

The farm machine is broken and old  
(So is the farmer — truth be told!)  
The coyote preys on the sheep in the fold,  
The chicken hawk grows still more bold,  
The old FARM HOME is LONELY, and COLD  
WELL, — JIMMY? The Min. of Ag.

W. E. WILSON,  
Secretary Cherhill Local.

Just as we are going to press we have hear that our genial President of District No. 12, Mr. W. H. Childress, has had the misfortune to lose his son, killed in action in Italy.

All the executive wish to express their deepest sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Childress and family in their loss and we know that all our members feel the same; not only towards Mr. and Mrs. Childress but to all who have had a similar loss.

# A. F. U. Bulletin

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206 Agency Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

## Bacon Contract and Proposed Union Action

We wish to refer to this question again as it is necessary that all Western Canadians at least, as well as all our members, shall understand what motive the Union has in view in proposing Direct Action.

Now in the first place we want to make it abundantly clear that we want to supply bacon for Britain, very much so, and up to the full extent she needs so that her people can receive a sufficient ration.

We believe the action taken by our Dominion Government will have the reverse effect to this because the reaction of the farmers to the Government announcements was to cut down production immediately and the explanations which have been given since by the Minister of Agriculture have not been such that Western Farmers will renew increased hog production with enthusiasm. If the war continues for more than another year, the indications are that there may be a shortage of hogs which would cripple the war effort. Before that time comes we want to convince the Minister concerned and the Dominion Government as a whole that the farmers of the West are determined to get a few matters straightened out before they make further expensive outlays for increased hog production. It is necessary, not only for Union members; but for ALL farmers that a price be paid which will cover at least the cost of production and provide enough over to enable the farmer to carry on in financial security, if they are to be persuaded to renew or increase their 1943 efforts.

### BRITISH BACON MARKET

On the score of giving protection to Canadian Agriculture against a possible loss of the British Bacon Market in some measure after the war, Mr. Gardiner refused to guarantee as much as the 1943 minimum; but has given no indication that any attempt has been made to negotiate a trading agreement with Britain so that hogs

could be traded for British exports on a Parity Basis. This is the crux of the situation and the Dominion Government makes no attempt to clarify the issue.

The British Minister of Food has stated in unmistakable fashion that after the war Britain will be compelled to trade with those nations which are willing to trade with her. Every well informed Canadian knows that the only basis for free international trade is one of goods for goods and the only effect which the buying of "foreign exchange" can have is to restrict rather than to encourage such free trade. The way is open then to the Dominion Government to supply Britain with all the bacon she needs, to pay the Canadian farmer as near to a Parity Price as he will accept to go on producing all the hogs required, see that the packing plants supply the same high quality of bacon to Britain as the hogs are which the farmers supply to them; and enter into a trading relation by which Canadian wheat and hogs can be shipped to Britain after the war in exchange for manufactured goods which Britain wishes to export and which Canada needs.

### CANADIAN PRICE FOR CANADIAN PEOPLE

Some one may say that Canada is not able to pay the Western Farmers enough money to ensure this hog supply. Well Canada seem able to pay it to every other business, trade, industry and profession, so she should be able to pay it to her farmers. However, if some people still have their doubts we would like to point out that it can be done very easily. And without going into debt.

Russia has already done it and a short article at the end of this Editorial will explain how she did it. We are not claiming that everything that Russia does is right. But we do believe that the methods they adopted in their lumber deal with Great Britain could be followed with advantage by all nations of the world. If it were done, we should see International Free Trade established for the first time, and it would remove forever that diabolical interference on the part of the moneychangers whose evil machinations not only strifle friendly free trade between the nations, but lead inevitably to International War.

International trade of any kind only comes about because one nation is willing to receive goods from another nation in exchange for her own, but when the crafty money-changers who deal in "foreign-financial exchange" get their greedy tentacles into the deal, their sole aim is to absorb all the profits which would have accrued to the people of both countries by making an acceptable exchange; and they generally succeed in their nefarious schemes.

We think the time has now come to call a



spade a spade. Let us make international trade what it is supposed to be, and trade goods which we can spare, for the goods we need. Now is the time for Canada to enter into "Trade" agreement with Great Britain regardless of "foreign exchange" and set up an import board which will be able to make available to the Canadian people, the imports we receive from Britain at a price which bears exact ratio to the terms upon which the goods themselves were exchanged. We should then have International Free Trade for the first time.

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### HOW RUSSIA DEFEATED THE "FOREIGN EXCHANGE" SHARKS

Of course, this happened before Russia became our gallant ally and because almost everything they did at that time was rather unorthodox, we called them Reds. And if you happened to be one of those peculiar people who recognized a good thing, no matter where you saw it, or if you thought there was anything good in Russia at all, you were also called Red. Well, in those days no nice people wanted to truck or trade with the Russias. We, in Canada, had said exactly the same thing about the people of the United States just twenty years previously. But we have begun to change that just a little, but only a very little.

However, Russian's money was no good, and the British Government did not want to trade with her, but Britain did need some of Russia's lumber. And so this is what happened. The Russian people cut the trees, and made them into lumber, and they were paid for their services in Russian money. The lumber was shipped to Britain, and at Russia's request, a credit was placed to her account in England, and this credit was used by Russia to buy other goods, wherever they could be bought with British Credit.

Now we do not know how much the Russian people were paid to produce that lumber. The point to be borne in mind is that it was settled in Russian currency on a Russian scale of wages and be that high, or be it low, it made no difference to the price at which the lumber was sold. No doubt the lumber would be sold at a "world price" just the same as Canadian wheat would have to be and equally, there is no doubt that Canada could pay such a price to Canadian farmers for their wheat, as would bear a right relationship to all the other wage scales that prevail in Canada, and thus put Canadian farmers on an equality with all other industry. Of course, we could not do such sensible things as this if we agree to submit to a rate of exchange imposed upon us by a body of financiers who do not and cannot, appreciate the viewpoint of the mere producer and worker. Also you do not need

to deduce from this that we must do exactly as Russia has done in ALL things. Not at all. It is merely an illustration that we should be willing to profit by a good method wherever we see it practiced and not adopt the mental attitude of "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" The point that we must bear in mind is that we have certain conditions prevailing here in Canada. Some of them we like and therefore, wish to maintain, and there are others which we do not like, and therefore wish to improve upon.

## New Bacon Contract

As soon as the terms of the new bacon contract were announced the Union took the matter up with Mr. Gardiner and pointed out that the action of the Government would result in a great drop in production.

We wrote a strong letter of protest to Mr. Gardiner pointing out that Britain needed the bacon and Western Canada hog producers were only asking for such terms as would enable them to go on and if necessary INCREASE their production in case the war carried on longer than some may now think. We did this hoping to strengthen Mr. Gardiner's hand against the attitude taken by Mr. Donald Gordon.

However, the financial viewpoint won out and Mr. Gardiner tried to put the blame on the British Government who, he said, had advised him that they may not require our bacon after the war.

The real facts are, however, that Britain wants Canadian bacon after the war, provided Canada will accept her goods as payment in exchange. Could anything be fairer than that? And we always thought that Mr. Gardiner's party was in favor of International Free Trade. At election times anyway!!! We are therefore printing the last letter we wrote to Mr. Gardiner of the attitude of this Union, and also his reply.

Mr. Gardiner encloses an extract from an Eastern paper which also criticises him and claims this criticism does not agree with ours. We leave our readers to judge whether Mr. Gardiner has again attempted to add 2 and 2 and has failed to make them total 4.

December 21st, 1943

Honourable J. G. Gardiner,  
Minister of Agriculture,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Now that most of the facts in connection with the new bacon contract are coming out it

seems to be plain that the interests of Alberta especially have been sacrificed in an unjustifiable manner.

Although it is admitted that bacon takes up less shipping space than grain and Alberta farmers were urged by the Government to feed their grain to hogs for this very reason, yet definite encouragement has since been given to ship coarse grain to Ontario while hog production in Alberta has been just as definitely discouraged.

The farmers are showing by their actions what they think of the policies for which they hold you responsible and while the latest appeal made by you for a larger quantity than the minimum may cause some farmers to stay with hog production, regardless of the unprofitable outlook, yet the officials of the Union are confident that had the facts as we now know them been brought out at the beginning and the hog producers of Alberta been given an equitable raise in the price of hogs to compensate for the increased market value of their grain, they would have continued with their efforts although the burden of overwork and high costs of production gave them no enthusiasm for the job.

The present discrimination in favour of the Ontario farmer which is made up as follows:—Difference in freight per carcass \$1.95; plus the extra feeding costs of \$3.00 per hog from which the Ontario feeder is free, plus the \$1.00 bonus on class A's, given by the Ontario Government, makes a possible \$5.95 difference less to producers in Alberta as compared to Ontario.

It is fairly apparent that some strong influence is being exerted at Ottawa to hold hog prices in the West to a level that gives insufficient returns to the producer while this policy does not apply to the same extent in the East.

Our members are demanding that a strike ballot be sent out if a majority vote decides in favour of such a course and we feel that their intentions in the matter are the same as the Executive and that is, that the terms of the new contract be so amended that hog production is encouraged in Alberta by removing the disadvantages which the farmer who feeds grain of his own raising is under as compared with the feeder who buys his grain; and then put us on the same freight basis with regard to our hogs as has already been granted to Ontario with regard to the feed grain which they are buying from Alberta.

If this is done the officials of this Union would feel that they could urge their members to continue hog raising to the extent of their ability for the sake of the British people and our fighting forces. We do not hold out any hope however that action by us can nullify the deplorable confusion which has been caused to

Alberta hog producing industry by the secretive, discriminating and inefficient methods which have been used in publicising the recent grain and livestock policies of the Dominion Government and we would urge that if the Dominion Government wishes to receive the full co-operation of all farmers in carrying out their policies regarding agriculture; that all organized farm bodies be taken into the confidence of the Government and consideration given to the advice of practical farmers regarding those policies.

In order to partly retrieve the situation as it now exists, it will be necessary to make a contract that will extend for at least two years after the end of the war at a parity level and this parity be maintained in the post war period. Hog prices declining in the same proportion as other prices (farm machinery, etc.) decline.

The best way to retain the British bacon market after the war is to supply her with all she wants now and to see that the bacon the packers ship is as good as the hogs which the farmers supply to the packers.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) H. E. Nichols, Secretary,  
ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION.

#### Copy of Mr. Gardiner's Reply.

Ottawa, December 27, 1943.

H. E. Nichols Esq.  
Secretary, Alberta Farmers' Union,  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

Dear Mr. Nichols,

I have yours of December 21st.

I note what you have to say with regard to hogs and with regard to our efforts on behalf of East and West. I am sending you the first paragraph from an editorial which appeared in The Farmer's Advocate, published at London, Ontario. You will note that they are critics of the government, too, but do not agree with your criticisms.

All I can do is let the one answer the other, and feel that if we are not satisfying everyone we are probably doing what the great majority of farmers in Canada believe we ought to be doing.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) James G. Gardiner.

#### Extract from The Farmer's Advocate.

##### Mr. Gardiner Stuck His Chin Out

When the new bacon contract was announced, with the inadequate price increase attached, it soon leaked out that the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable J. G. Gardiner, had recommended a worthwhile boost in bacon prices but was opposed by Donald Gordon, whose views were finally accepted by the Government. There the



matter stood until Mr. Gardiner went West, and in those great open spaces, where dollar wheat means good times, and a long rest in the winter, his vision of Canada dimmed and his utterances became soothing to prairie farmers but exceedingly irritating to live stock producers in the mixed farming provinces. In effect, Mr. Gardiner has drawn upon his own head the wrath that otherwise would have been aimed at the entire Government.

## Security of Tenure

(WHEAT POOL VERSION)

In order to refresh the minds of our readers regarding the contract made by Mr. Purdy with the Directors of the Alberta Wheat Pool, whereby a salary and retirement allowance was allowed which committed the pool to some \$180,000, we reprint that portion of the letter we received from Mr. German explaining the situation because some other facts have now come to light which make interesting reading.

The letter follows:—

"Dear Mr. Nichols,

Replying to your letter of the 19th instant, in which you inquire concerning a form of insurance or annuity for Mr. R. D. Purdy, the facts are these:

When Mr. E. B. Ramsay resigned from the chairmanship of the Board of Grain Commissioners in July 1941, the position was offered to Mr. Purdy by the Honourable J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The office carried with it a salary of \$15,000 a year and a guarantee of a ten year period of employment. Mr. Purdy turned the offer down believing that he could best serve the farmers of this Province by remaining in his present position. The Board felt that under the circumstances some recognition should be given to Mr. Purdy for the stand he had taken and placed the matter before our delegates at their Fourteenth Annual Meeting. As a result of the discussion which followed, the delegates passed a resolution authorizing the Board to guarantee Mr. Purdy SECURITY of TENURE and to make provisions for his possible disability.

Various proposals for carrying out the terms of the delegates resolution were studied and, in June of last year, our association entered into an agreement with Mr. Purdy in which the association agrees to retain Mr. Purdy in his present capacity as manager of our organization for a period of ten years, from the 1st day of August 1941, at his present salary of \$13,000 a

year and to pay him a retiring allowance of \$4,000 a year by equal monthly instalments, beginning on the last day of the month next following the date of his retirement and continuing until such payments aggregate \$50,000 unless, prior to that time, he should die."

It appears that Mr. German was mistaken when he said that the position offered to Mr. Purdy as Chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners carried with it a salary of \$15,000 per year. Of course we accepted it as the truth and the impression we gained from this was that Mr. Purdy was making the not inconsiderable sacrifice of \$2,000 per year by consenting to remain with the farmers; and this was the reason why the grateful delegates authorized the Board to provide Mr. Purdy with security of tenure. We find now, however, that the salary for the office of Chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners as set out in the Canada Grain Act is \$12,000 per year and not \$15,000.

This throws a different light on the stand taken by Mr. Purdy as it shows he was retaining a position which was paying him \$1,000 per year MORE than the other job offered, instead of \$2,000 less.

In addition the Pool Board showed their appreciation of his wise choice by granting him a retiring allowance of \$4,000 per year for at least 12 years, which was considerably more than he would have received had he accepted the government job instead. It would appear that the Pool Board has been quite generous with the farmers money as even the retiring allowance looks fairly large when compared with the income received from 50c wheat.

## Bacon Board Bulletin

We show below a statement received from the hog grading Department, setting out in detail how the rail price of a 165 lb. carcass, which is obtained from a 200 lb. pig (weight on hoof) is broken down.

We have had many requests about the value of the offal and this shows how it has been figured into the basic price.

These figures are based on the old contract price and would be approximately 50c per 100 higher under the present contract.

Wiltshire basic 118 lbs. at \$21.95	\$25.90
Offal	2.10
Trimmings Tender Loin, Etc.	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$29.00
Less Handling basic Toronto	\$3.09
	<hr/>
	\$25.91
Basic Grade 200 lbs. 165 at \$15.10	\$24.91
Premium	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$25.91

## Export Prices on Bacon

We receive numerous enquiries regarding the prices which the Bacon Board receives for the different cuts of bacon which they export to Britain.

We print the following Price schedule which we have received from the Meat Board which relates to the New Contract.

M. B. R. No. 91.

Ottawa, November 12th, 1943.

### PRICE SCHEDULE FOR WILTSHIRE SIDES AND CUTS

Under authority of Meat Board Regulations P. C. 4187, the Board hereby determines that the price schedule listed below for Wiltshire sides and export cuts shall become effective on all product put into cure for export to the United Kingdom from hogs slaughtered on and after November 15th, 1943, commencing with allotment 53 B.

The Board further determines that the maximum weight for Wiltshire sides for export shall not exceed 80 pounds and that the maximum weight for Hams, Gammon and Square Fores shall not exceed 22 pounds.

#### Price List for Wiltshire Sides

	45 - 55 lb.	55 - 65 lb.	65 - 75 lb.	75 - 80 lb.
A—1	\$22.30	\$22.70	\$22.30	\$21.30
A—2	21.90	22.30	21.90	20.90
A—3	21.50	21.90	21.50	20.50
B—1	21.70	22.10	21.70	20.70
B—2	21.10	21.50	21.10	20.10
B—3	20.50	20.90	20.50	19.50

#### Price List for Export Cuts

Hams, 10 to 18	\$23.55	Rib Backs A—1 & A—2	10 to 18	\$25.65
Hams, 18 to 20	22.60	Rib Backs A—3	10 to 18	24.85
Hams, 20 to 22	22.10	Rib Backs A—1 & A—2,	18 to 20	24.40
		Rib Backs A—3,	18 to 20	23.60
Gammons, 10 to 18	\$23.55	Square Fores,	12 to 20	\$18.55
Gammons, 18 to 20	22.60	Square Fores,	20 to 22	17.80
Gammons, 20 to 22	22.10			
Middles, A—1 & A—2,	22 to 30	\$24.05		
Middles, A—3	22 to 30	23.25	Tinned Hams	\$29.42
Middles, A—1 & A—2,	30 to 36	23.05	Contract Middles	22 to 36
Middles, A—3	30 to 36	22.25		\$24.50

The Meat Board, Chairman J. G. Taggart.

## Details Affecting Further Payments on Wheat Producers' Certificates

### Crop Years Affected.

The crop years for which payments will be made are the 1940, 1941 and 1942 Board years. Certificates covering the 1935 to 1939 crops, inclusive, have no value and may be destroyed.

### Amount of Payment.

It will be sometime early in the new year before all the records can be completed and the amount of the surplus in each crop established. It is therefore impossible at the present time to give you any information with regard to the per

bushel amount which will be payable on each grade of wheat.

### When to send in Certificates

Ample publicity will be given in the newspapers, and otherwise, when the Board is ready to proceed with the payment. Before the producers are asked to surrender their Certificates, forms will be made available at the country elevators upon which the Certificates will have to be listed, and the form together with the Certificates will then be surrendered to the Board.



Please, therefore, do not send in Certificates until notified, but carefully preserve them in a safe place for surrender when required.

### Who Will Receive Payment?

Payments will be made to the producers whose names appear on the Certificates.

### Ownership of Wheat

The Board has no means of determining the ownership of wheat beyond the names shown on the Producer's Certificates. It is the duty of anyone who has a legal claim to any share in wheat delivered to the Board to protect himself. The Board cannot do this for you.

Many requests have been received to check up and report on deliveries of wheat made by individuals, the only records we possess are the duplicate Certificates, of which we have approximately **five million** to be handled and dealt with.

### Landlord, Tenants, Etc.

Where a landlord finds his tenant has delivered wheat for which he received Certificates in his own name, the landlord should at once secure an accounting from his tenant and make arrangements with respect to their respective interests in the Certificates. The Certificates should then be forwarded to the Board for re-issue, accompanied by a declaration signed by both parties giving the reason for the required change, together with land ownership, land description, etc. Many tenants state they have settled with their landlord for the initial price, and they feel that any further payments belong to them. Title to either the initial or any future payments belongs to the owner of the wheat; therefore both landlord and tenant are entitled to payment on their respective shares. These are matters for adjustment between the interested parties, who are bona fide producers under the Act, and it is important that they be attended to forthwith.

### Certificates Lost or Destroyed

A large percentage of producers have apparently lost or mislaid their Certificates and are now writing to ask that these be replaced. When we are ready to proceed with the payment, the producers who can surrender their Certificates will naturally receive first consideration. We will then endeavour to protect those who cannot produce their Certificates. Meantime, an intensive search should be made for the missing documents, which in many cases will be located. Replacing lost Certificates later will probably involve a charge for the service rendered, hence it is desirable to locate the missing Certificates if possible.

## Meetings Held

A meeting of the Chipman local was held on Tuesday afternoon on 28th December. There were about 40 present and the President B. Krull was in the chair. Mr. McGowan and Mr. Bevington gave interesting addresses on organization and the debt situation. The local will be sending one delegate to the Convention.

A good meeting was held at Lamont on the evening of 28th December. There were over 100 present with the District President, Mr. A. Milsap, as Chairman. This was a very representative meeting from many locals and great interest was shown in many questions asked.

The new Director to the Alberta Wheat Pool Board, Mr. Harrild, entered into the discussions and these positions should all be held by farmers who believe in Union principles.

Mr. McGowan spoke on organization and the hog situation, and Mr. Bevington dealt with the Debt load.

The meeting was in favour of getting action. This to be left to the Executive to decide the time.

A splendid meeting was held at Leduc on 29th day of December and the energetic Secretary of Local 212 (Mr. R. Mix) who was largely responsible for arranging this, was pleased at the turnout. The hall was full with many standing and President R. Holand was chairman of a good meeting. Mr. McGowan dealt with organization and the hog contract in an effective manner and the meeting expressed approval with the stand the Union had taken. Mr. Bevington dealt with debt load and finance in general, and also the possibilities of co-operation. He also showed how a different Agricultural policy had been followed in the United States, where the principle of floor prices was established before a ceiling was put on. The very opposite was done in Canada with the result that a disproportionate load was put on the farmers here, while in the United States they are on an equality basis with other workers.

The only actual Cost of Production is Consumption. That is, the only Real Costs are made up of the energy and material that is actually used up out of one cycle of production in order to produce the next cycle.

Therefore improvements in technical methods etc., ought to automatically bring about cheaper returns to the consumer.

## Notice To All Secretaries And Members

With regard to the proposed strike ballot we wish all the locals to first discuss this and say whether or not they want to ballot on the matter; and notify Head Office of the number of votes, yes or no, in their local.

If a majority of all the A. F. U. membership are in favor of having the ballot sent out this will be done and each local will hold a poll and conduct a ballot vote the same as at an election.

The Secretary can act as the poll clerk and only members having paid up cards will be allowed to vote.

The results should be entered on the sheet supplied for that purpose and sent in to Head Office together with the ballots and if there is a recorded vote of 50% of the total membership plus one, in favor of a strike then this will be accepted by the Executive as a mandate to use in the best interests of the Union in dealing with the situation.

I wish to point out for the information of all that even though a strike ballot is called for and then carried, this does not mean to say the Executive would immediately declare a non-delivery strike. Such action would not be helpful at the present time. But it would provide the Executive with a lever, say next summer, when the present action of the Government may have resulted in a shortage of hogs, of pointing out to the Government that the Union would only advocate any increase in hog raising on the part of its members if the Government was prepared to amend the bacon contract along the lines demanded by us.

Some of our members seem to think that if the vote carried an immediate strike would be declared; but action such as this would have to be governed by the circumstances and only done if it was in the best interests of the country and of the Union

## Interesting Letters

Shamrock Valley, Alberta.  
December 20th, 1943

Alberta Farmers' Union,  
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Sir:-

I received your farmers' call for "strike" ballot and I called a meeting of all farmers in our Local last Saturday. Nine members out of fifteen came and they were all in favor to have the ballots sent out. But I am sure most of the others who were not there are in favor because we had a meeting a week before and there were only two or three that did not favor it. Well, we are having our annual meeting on the 26th

of the month. We are likely to send two delegates to the Convention, one a woman as well as a man. We will stay with friends in Edmonton.

The reason we have our annual meeting so late is because I tried to get the farmers' wives to join and they won't join unless their card is made up for 1944. So I told them they would be and they promised they would all join up. And I may get a couple of new members as well. I do all I can to help to build our Local stronger because I know that the farmer will never get anywhere by himself. I am 45 years old and went through a lot of experience of hardship both on the prairies as well as in this bush country and things on the farms have not changed any that I can see and even feel. It is really getting worse than better. And I think the farmer needs the Union before he will do anything to better his condition. I have been in different farm organizations and I find they are very hard to organize. But I have good hope this time anyway and the only way out is to stay right with it. Well, we will send you the names of our delegates and our resolutions so you will have them on the 31st of this month.

C. M. Rudd, Secretary,  
Shamrock Valley, Alberta.

## THREE LAKES LOCAL NO. 467 HOLDS ITS SECOND BIRTHDAY AND ANNUAL MEET- ING IN FESTIVE FASHION

On the evening of December 8th, 1943 the members of the above local numbering seventy, gathered in the Layton Hall to celebrate, and right well did they do just that. Three long tables were erected in the hall and the lady members of our local packed them with all the delicacies that one could desire. No one to look in on the group would imagine a war was being fought and the thoughts of many went over to our loved ones and friends in that tight little isle, who we knew were not privileged to fare so well as we. Some over there are numbered among our members. Our honored guests of the evening were Bishop and Mrs. Sovereign and Canon Bratt, who are ardent supporters of our organization and its work and it is they who have made it possible to enjoy the shelter of our beautiful Hall for our activities. After the inner man was attended to we enjoyed an address given by the Bishop on the great MacKenzie Valley of our far North Land. He took us on an imaginary trip from Edmonton starting on the Muskeg Express to Fort Norman and Camp Canol, all this territory he visited during the past summer on his ecclesiastical visit to the North. After the address and a vote of thanks had been given the visitors, we proceeded with our Annual Meeting. The financial Report was read and was considered satisfactory in every detail. Amongst



the items was a gift of cigarettes to one of our boys who was wounded in Sicily and a voluntary amount given to pay the Insurance of the Hall which has been placed at our disposal. The report shows a very fair balance on hand so we have reason to be proud of our united efforts for the past year. The president then gave his address and at once thanked all for their co-operation during the past year and made special notice of the secretary for his good work and neat and accurate bookkeeping, then came his usual appeal, that of increasing membership stating that we must not give up our efforts until we have every farmer either in our ranks, or the ranks of other organized farm groups, stressing the fact that by a strong united effort we could better our last years work and that in itself was really creditable having increased our membership from a dozen to seventy; sixty-one of whom are adults and nine Junior members. The local too could in the past year be credited with the organization of three other locals. He pointed out to the members that it was a duty they must not neglect to spread the good news of what our organization was doing for the farmers and although we had not yet attained the goal we had set for ourselves, still, we had during the past year secured some worthwhile benefits that would not have come our way, but for the co-operative efforts of all organized farm groups. The few benefits we have gained, however, would more than warrant the dues we pay into our Union for many years to come. He strongly stressed the necessity of bringing the women into our Union and gave those present a most cordial welcome to join-up, and this appeal had results. The Juniors also came in for a deal of attention and the parents were appealed to in a strong measure to bring their teen-aged youngsters into our group. He also asked for the co-operation and unbounded support of all members to the offices they might choose to carry on the activities of their local for the coming year and then the election of officers was proceeded with. Mr. T. Smart was once again chosen as President by acclamation, he having held that position since the local was organized. The choice of Vice-President fell to Mr. C. Neisen, a very enthusiastic member of the local and who served as a Director during the past year. The remainder of the Executive elected were Mrs. Santa, Mr. D. Aebley, Mr. R. Haas and Mr. Sempowich. The first named and last two being newly elected. Mr. Aebley with Mr. Smart has held office since forming. Our old Secretary wished to hand over that position to another member. After a great deal of discussion, however, we suggested that he become assistant Secretary and his wife the Secretary which we believe will be satisfactory all round. We therefore believe that we have a real capable staff with which to start the New

Year and with high hopes and a dogged determination we are going to keep the old flag flying. We as a local wish at this time to pass on to Mr. Jackson our president, the Executive and all the members of our Union, united wishes for a prosperous New Year and a year which will see the end of hostilities.

Sincerely yours,

T. Smart,

President, Three Lakes Local No. 467.

Leduc, Alberta  
January 4th., 1944.

### TO THE EXECUTIVE, DIRECTORS AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION, GREETINGS!

We have passed another mile post on the highway of time and we have entered the threshold into another New Year, with all the failures, disappointments and accomplishments of 1943 left behind us. Let these be stepping stones to greater achievements throughout 1944.

1943 has been a year of sorrow and devastation for a large part of the world's population, the pantries and cupboards of the occident filled to the full with eatables of various kinds while in the Orient thousands have died from starvation, as we gaze into the future when this human massacre will cease and the world rolls back on its natural course we often wonder will this condition continue? or will true democracy with freedom from want really be restored?

A hundred years or more ago a people not afraid of hardships and pioneering settled this great Canada of ours. Did they flock to the cities? No; there were no cities. There was nothing but vast prairies and heartbreaking timber lands before them, but they went forth conquering and to conquer with one object in view and that was to make of this great stretch of country a true democracy with freedom from want. Not only for themselves but for their posterity.

The pioneering has been done and the succeeding generations have made of this Canada of ours a great agricultural country, the oldest of all industries, stretching from the dyke lands of the east down through the vast expanse of prairie country reaching to the Pacific slopes, this great achievement reached the ears of the peoples of eastern world who were not so favorably situated as the people over here, they began to look to this country for a large part of their human needs and we were just as anxious to see that they got it. Bartering became the order of the day. As time rolled on a few money men

began to manipulate the markets of the world, they were not satisfied with that but they have succeeded to such an extent that they are controlling the entire agricultural industry.

The question immediately arises, how did they manage to get into the driver's seat and get control of the greatest of all industries? The answer is obvious. The agriculturist spent all his time in the back-breaking end of his business and sorely neglected the most important part, the business end. All through the years the farmers have been going about grumbling about what a raw deal these money manipulators of our country have been handling them from year to year, instead of doing that, they should have tried to remedy the situation in a business man's way before it got out of hand, and there was only one way in which this could be done and that is through organization.

Statisticians glibly speak of three quarters of a million farmers because there are that many farms, but actually there are three and three-quarter million farmers because all members of the farmer's family are farmers too. This is even more literally true in this time of war when all across Canada women are sharing with the men-folk most of the common tasks of the field. Men normally too old to work or thought to be, are right out there doing their bit.

In spite of the fact that agriculture has given up 18% of her manpower or 350,000 men to the armed services and war plants, it has during 1943 produced a record food crop; the farmers of this country have made Canada a great food arsenal. They have played as great a part in this war effort as any other class and still they have been exploited most shamelessly and discriminated against most ruthlessly not only by other industrialists—but by the government in power.

Price ceilings have been placed on their products in many cases far below the cost of production. They have been asked to produce large quantities of different food stuffs necessary towards our war effort on the supposition that the prices would be right and fair; but as soon as this production comes up to a level where the farmers begin to realize something for their work and feed, the prices come tumbling down and the profits gone to the four winds of heaven and all they have left is the exercise.

On the other hand the prices of farm machinery and other products which the farmers have to buy have steadily increased out of all reasonable bounds and the Government in power has taken no step to stem this rising tide of profits for a few manufacturers and the packers that finish our raw products into finished products for the world's markets.

The question arises, what are we going to do about it? Will some future favorable turn of

events remedy the situation? Or will it just right itself when this war is over automatically? I think not; unless we farmers of this great Canada of ours take matters into our own hands and take the bull by the horns and say from now on we will run our own business. This greatest of all industry will go on the rocks of insolvency and all the work and efforts of the pioneers of this country towards making these vast prairies and heart-breaking timber lands into beautiful homes not only for themselves but for their posterity; and the democracy with freedom from want which had been their dreams through the years, will result only in economic slavery and the farmers will be mere tenants to big money interests.

The co-operative spirit of the farmers has come to the fore during the war. They have come to realize that if there is to be any economic change in our national set-up they themselves are the ones that will have to bring this about and they have also begun to realize that this cannot be done individually but collectively.

If every local in our union will organize another local during 1944, some can do more than that: and let our slogan be "Every member get a member, every three months," we will finish the job this year.

Wishing you all a prosperous 1944.

E. Aaserude, Sect'y A.F.U., Dist. 9.

We have inherited a measure of Liberty,  
Our duty is to transmit this to our posterity;  
And to add our share as a part of our responsibility,  
So that the accumulated riches may last to all futurity.

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